

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF JUDGE ROBERT C. COATES

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished Judge Robert C. Coates of the San Diego County Superior Court.

Judge Coates has persisted in a pattern of abuse of the prestige of his judicial office and misuse of court resources in connection with personal and non-court matters, notwithstanding his prior discipline by the commission for similar conduct, notwithstanding direction from his presiding judges that he cease such conduct, and notwithstanding advice he received from the California Judges Association (CJA) Ethics Committee to avoid such conduct. His conduct reflects a repeated refusal to comply with canon 2B(2), which prohibits judges from using the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or pecuniary interests of the judge or others. Judge Coates's recalcitrance manifests indifference toward the erosion of public confidence in the judiciary that results from irresponsible behavior by judges. The commission determined that his repeated ethical indifference warrants another public rebuke.

The public admonishment is available on the commission's Web site at www.cjp.ca.gov (under "Press Releases" and "Public Discipline – 1960 to Present") and at the commission's office.

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The commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is the Hon. Judith D. McConnell of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, in San Diego, California.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the commission's Web site.